

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 13-14, 23, 25-27, and 30 are currently pending. Claim 15-22 have been cancelled and claims 3, 5, 9-12, 24, and 28-29 are withdrawn from consideration. It is submitted that the withdrawn claims should be reconsidered and reintroduced into the application when the independent claims from which they depend are found allowable.

With respect to the drawings, revised drawings are submitted herewith bearing the legend "Replacement Sheet" for Figs. 1, 3, 4A-6, 8 and 9. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

On the merits, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 13-14, 23, 25-27, and 30 under 35 U.S. C. § 102(b) as anticipated by one or more of U.S. Patent Nos. 3,110,905 to Rhodes, 4,595,627 to Steinman, 5,883,022 to Elsener, 5,498,468 to Blaney, and 4,345,730 to Leuvelink. Finally, the Examiner has rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Blaney.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite in pertinent part, "a hydroentangling device in combination with a hydroentangling support fabric." It is submitted that none of the above identified references teaches or suggests a hydroentangling device in combination with a hydroentangling support fabric. Indeed, in each rejection listed by the Examiner admits that none of these references "mention the fabric as a hydroentangling support."

Further, it is submitted that the above-identified amendment to independent claim 1 presents more than an intended use. Indeed the amendment provides a structural limitation of the claim that must be considered for patentability purposes.

As none of the relied upon portions of the cited references teaches a "hydroentangling device in combination with a hydroentangling support fabric" it is submitted that independent

claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references and is allowable. For similar, or somewhat similar reasons, independent claim 23 is also allowable.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 6-8, 13-14, 25-27, and 30 depend from either claim 1 or claim 23, as discussed above, and are similarly allowable.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is the basis for a contrary view.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

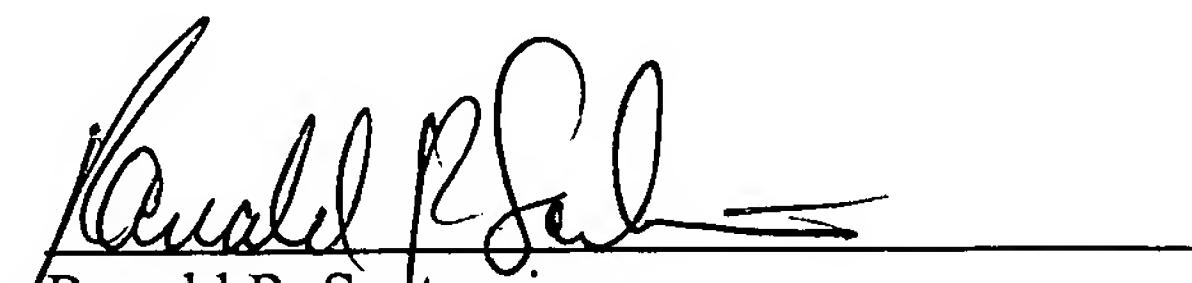
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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